

SHORT SUMMARY

Organisation: Rijkswaterstaat's Purchase Implementation Centre (IUC) is responsible for the government-wide procurement of office furniture | **Contact person:** Sabien van der Leij (Category Manager Office Furnishing at Rijkswaterstaat) [LinkedIn](#) & Ellen Hoog Antink (Programme manager Circular Economy) [LinkedIn](#)



Office furniture according to circular principles



"You are only really applying circular principles if you don't buy any new furniture."

Sabien van der Leij, Category Manager
Office furnishing, Central Government

Reuse existing office furniture as much as possible. And make the least possible use of new furniture. That is what Central Government is working towards.

Project description

In this project Central Government is exploring and realising the switch from a linear to a complete circular procurement of office furnishing. This means that the design, the handling and the procurement of the furniture is organised in such a way that products, materials and raw materials remain re-assignable. As well as delivery contracts, contracts are also agreed for such things as furniture maintenance, repair, storage and adaptation. This thus concerns the procurement of new, circular economy furniture and the reuse of existing office furniture, with the accent being on reassignment.

Approach

The project arose from a Dutch parliament motion that decided that Central Government must aim for 10% circular procurement. The challenge was then taken up by the Category Office Furnishing which, together with Rijkswaterstaat's Purchase Implementation Centre (IUC), organises the procurement of office furnishings across the central government. Advice agency TurnToo has conducted research into the options for office furniture based on circular principles. This showed that there is a lot of potential within Central Government to apply circularity and that significant savings are possible. The implementation started from Rijkswaterstaat, but the rest of Central Government is also involved in



FACTS & FIGURES

- > According to estimates, the number of workstations within Central Government will be reduced by approximately 5,000 per year until 2020.
- > The replacement value of these 5,000 workstations is 1,000 euro per workstation.
- > The calculations have taken into account the costs of refurbishment (€ 187), logistics and storage (€ 32) and cleaning and checks (€ 23).
- > Rijkswaterstaat's first contracts for the circular use of office furnishings

Results

A report was produced: 'The route to circular office furnishing', which included an analysis of the organisational environment, ambitions and aims. Concrete recommendations were also made. The report also contains a positive business case. In the short

"Sustainability really has to be in your organisation's DNA."

Sabien van der Leij, Category Manager Office Furnishing Central Government

term, the decrease in the number of workstations within Central Government is an opportunity. This number will reduce by around 5,000 per year until 2020. Internal reuse results in a savings potential of approximately € 6 to 7 million per year for Central Government as a whole. Extending the service life of existing furniture is a second source of short-term and medium-term savings

(4 to 8-year extension is achievable). This delivers an extra savings potential of € 1.2 - 4 million per year Combined, this can result in total savings of € 8-11 million per year across central government.

Lessons learned

- Circular procurement demands commitment from policy to operation. That is why it is better to talk about circular operations than circular procurement.
- Circularity only really succeeds if you involve the entire chain. So, not only the people who take care of the purchase, use and maintenance, but also the furniture producers.
- It is important that you map out your stakeholders.
- Sustainability really has to be in your organisation's DNA. It also demands a huge effort and organisation to achieve this.
- What worked well, was involving a third party, in this case the advice agency TurnToo. This was because of their expertise but also because of their independent view.

About REBus and the Green Deal on Circular Procurement

The Green Deal on Circular Procurement (GDGP) is an initiative of MVO Nederland (CSR Netherlands), NEVI, Central government, Duurzame Leverancier, PIANOo, Kirkman Company and Circle Economy. Various pilots originating from GDGP are partly financed by the European REBus project, implemented in the Netherlands by Rijkswaterstaat (Directorate-General for Public Works and Water Management). They are working together to support businesses and government organisations in their circular procurement ambitions.

Contact information

- > E-mail: Circulair@rws.nl
- > Website: [PIANOo](https://www.pianoo.nl)

Partners: TurnToo (research report) | REBus | Rijkswaterstaat | PIANOo | Ministries of the Interior and Kingdom Relations (BZK) and Infrastructure and the Environment (IenM) **Relevant links & documents:** [Report The route to circular office furnishing](#) | [Case Study REBus - Public works unlocks potential for circularity](#) | [Tender documents \(dutch\)](#)

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